

Student reblazes Bay Circuit hiking trail

By John Chaffee
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — Hikers now have an easier time finding their way along the Duxbury portion of the Bay Circuit Trail, thanks to Jeremiah "Bud" Donovan.

Donovan, who wants to become a national park ranger someday, reblazed and improved the final 7 miles of the trail as his Eagle Scout service project.

"I wanted to do a project related to the outdoors," Donovan said.

A recent graduate of Xavier Brothers High School in Westwood, Donovan remained in scouting even though it's not considered cool by many of his peers.

"He stayed as a Scout undercover," said his mother, Patricia Donovan.

"He was a stealth Scout," said his father, Edward.

"Scouting is probably one of the few things in life that lets a kid be himself," Edward Donovan said. "All the other activities kids do are geared toward competing with one another."

A member of Duxbury's Troop 82 for six years, the 18-year-old Donovan got the idea to work on the Bay Circuit Trail from Joe Grady, the town's conservation administrator.

Grady referred Donovan to John Joline, Duxbury's Bay Circuit coordinator.

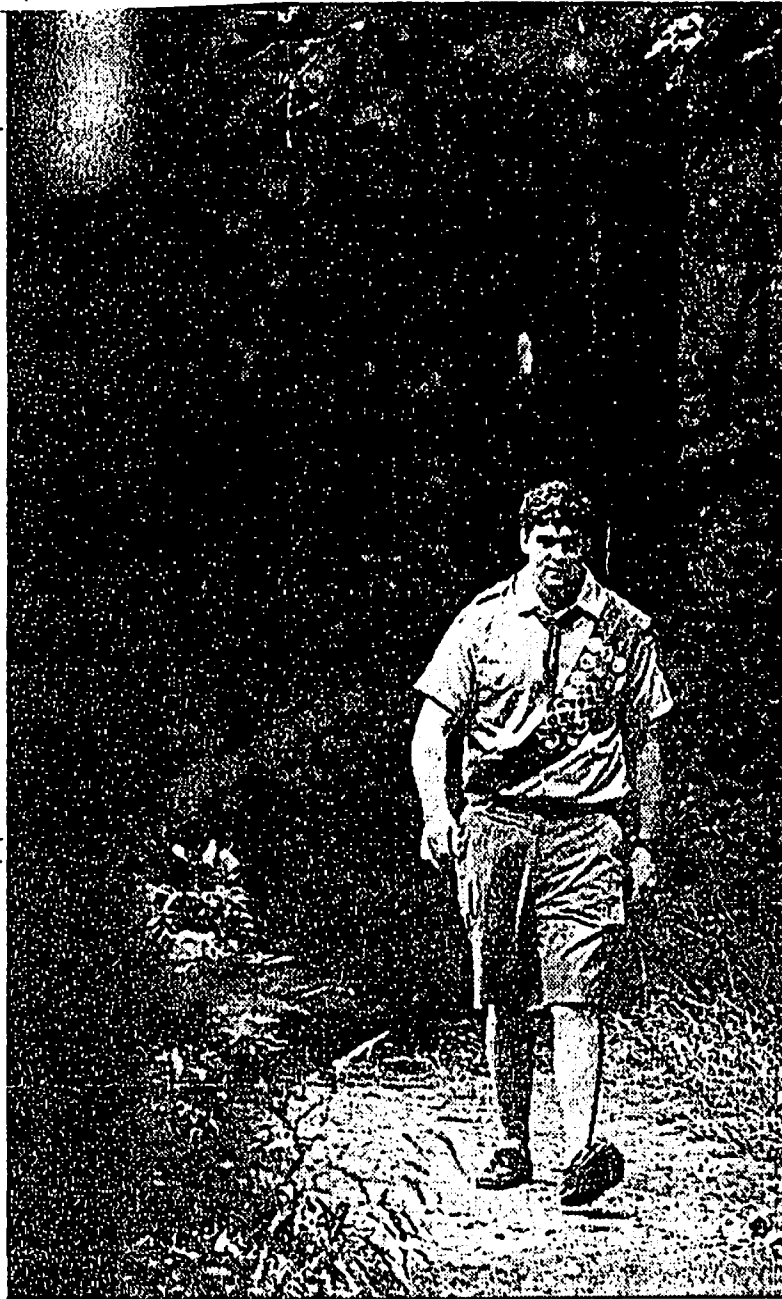
Under Joline's supervision, Donovan planned the project, got the necessary materials donated by the Somerville Lumber store in Hanover and Factory Paint of Pembroke and recruited fellow Scouts and members of his family to help out.

"It took about 100 hours in all," Donovan said.

Beginning in mid-May near Osborn's Country Store at the Pembroke-Duxbury line and working every Saturday morning, Donovan and his crew finished the job in six sessions.

On June 23, he walked the trail with Grady and Joline.

"He did a fine job," Joline said.



Derek Pruitt/The Patriot Ledger

Jeremiah 'Bud' Donovan walks part of the 7 miles of trail he marked in Duxbury to help hikers follow the Bay Circuit Trail.

Duxbury

The 200-mile-long Bay Circuit Trail, which begins at Plum Island in Newburyport, ends at Bay Farm on the Duxbury-Kingston line.

It's an "emerald necklace" linking parks, open spaces and waterways in a semicircle around Boston.

About 95 miles of the trail have been completed and marked, including the final seven miles in Duxbury.

Before Donovan went to work, the Duxbury portion of the trail had been identified by small red plastic markers that were nailed to trees along the way.

Now, in keeping with other portions of the Bay Circuit Trail, the Duxbury portion is marked by white painted blazes.

Donovan expects to receive his Eagle Scout award in late November when he comes home for Thanksgiving from his studies at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, where he will major in forestry.